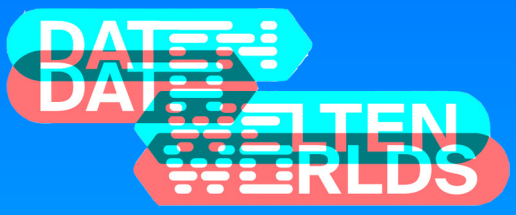
SCHAUFLER LAB
TU DRESDEN

PHASE 2

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–2026



SCHAUFLER LAB
TU DRESDEN

A joint project of



Dresden
University of
Technology



THE SCHAUFLER
FOUNDATION

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The Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden spokespersons (from left to right): Kirsten Vincenz, Orit Halpern, Moritz Ingwersen Photo: Anja Schneider

FOREWORD

After a successful start to its second funding period in April 2024, the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden has continued to flourish as a vibrant transdisciplinary platform where art, science, technology, and society converge. Guided by the theme **Data↔Worlds. Socio-technical and Cultural Syntheses of New Realities**, the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden has deepened its commitment to exploring the socio-technical and cultural dimensions of data-driven transformations. This annual report provides an overview of the diverse activities, collaborations, and milestones that defined the reporting period from April 2025 to March 2026, while also highlighting how the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden continues to foster innovative dialogues and practices across various disciplines. However, the second year of this funding period began with deeply saddening news from Sindelfingen: in April 2025, we learned of the passing of Christiane Schaufler-Münch, the co-founder of THE SCHAUFLER FOUNDATION (TSF). Her exceptional vision and unwavering dedication were instrumental in establishing the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden as a unique environment for creativity, collaboration, and critical engagement. Christiane Schaufler-Münch's legacy remains an enduring inspiration for all the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's endeavors and serves as a guiding force for its future.

In fact, preparations are already underway for the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's third funding phase, **Energy Cultures in Transition**, which is set to begin in April 2027. This theme will investigate the cultural, ecological, infrastructural, and political dimensions of energy systems, reflecting the pressing need to address the material and energy-intensive conditions underpinning digital cultures. Building on the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's strengths in encouraging interdisciplinary research and artistic experimentation, the third funding phase aspires to position the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden as a leading platform for examining the societal implications of energy transitions and global transformation processes.

Reflecting on the achievements of the past year, the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden has continued to foster dynamic synergies between its two pillars, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden and the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden. Together, they have advanced the Lab's mission of exploring the intersections of art, science, technology, and society through collaborative initiatives that unite academic inquiry and artistic experimentation. A prominent example of this collaboration was the highly anticipated conference "Performing Transformation: Shifting Landscapes in Art, Science, and Technology" in September 2025, which was co-hosted by various TUD Dresden University of Technology partners. This event brought together researchers, artists, and practitioners to engage in critical dialogue about how knowledge is produced, contested, and embodied during times of rapid societal change. The conference exemplified the strength of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's interdisciplinary approach, as it drew on the unique contributions of both the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden and the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden.

The Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden has played a vital role in advancing the Lab's transdisciplinary mission. During the 2025–2026 academic year, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden provided a structured framework for the development of doctoral research projects, offering comprehensive support for thesis outlines and chapter drafts. The bi-weekly colloquium series remained a cornerstone of the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden's activities, serving as a platform for interdisciplinary exchange and the discussion of individual and collective research progress. The Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden also introduced additional formats, such as a writing retreat in April 2025 and the and the second annual Dissertation Workshop in November 2025, which provided fellows with opportunities to present their research methods, preliminary findings, and written work for structured feedback from peers and supervisors.
In October 2025, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden fellows Jasmin Höning, Nelly Saibel, and Niklas Egberts organized the international symposium "Unpacking Generativity: Epistemology, Politics, and Aesthetics of Generative AI Systems", which brought together scholars from diverse fields to critically engage with key questions related to generativity in data-driven systems.
Complementing these academic activities, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden launched a **Videocast Series** in May 2025, featuring nine online interviews with experts from various disciplines. These videocasts have not only contributed to scholarly exchange but also engaged wider audiences in discussions on the societal and cultural implications of technological change.

In the realm of academic publishing, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden has initiated impactful projects, including the development of an edited volume titled "Beyond Decisions: Reimagining Decision-Making in the Age of Datafication" and a special issue project, "(De)Mystifying Data Beliefs: Speculative Futures for a Critical Present". These ongoing publications delve into critical topics such as the influence of datafication on governance, power structures, and social norms, as well as the ways in which epistemic authority, legitimacy, and cultural meaning are shaped within increasingly data-driven environments.
By addressing these pressing issues, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden's publishing initiatives contribute to a deeper understanding of the complex interplay between data, society, and decision-making processes, bringing forward critical perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of our digital age.

Throughout 2025–2026, the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden continued to establish itself as a central platform for transdisciplinary exchange between art, science, technology, and society at TUD. Embedded within the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden and its second funding phase **Data↔Worlds**, the residency creates a unique framework in which artistic research enters into sustained dialogue with scientific inquiry and public discourse.

The residency program understands artistic practice not as an illustrative supplement to scientific knowledge production, but as an independent form of research capable of critically reflecting, translating, and reimagining complex technological and societal transformations. Through close collaboration with researchers, students, institutions, and publics, the residency fosters experimental constellations in which fresh new perspectives on data-driven realities, infrastructures, economies, ecological transformations, and emerging technologies can come to light.

The 2025 residency with artist and filmmaker Mario Pfeifer focused on questions surrounding artificial intelligence (AI), data-driven realities, and human-machine relations. In collaboration with researchers from the field of AI at TUD, Pfeifer developed the project "Beyond the Binaries," an AI-based video installation exploring the societal and perceptual implications of increasingly algorithmic environments. Public formats such as the artist talk at COSMO Science Forum and the participatory survey "Beyond the Binaries" opened the research process to broader audiences and created a fruitful dialogue between artistic research, academia, and the public sphere.

The 2026 residency with the artist duo Quadrature (Juliane Götz and Sebastian Neitsch) will further expand the residency's interdisciplinary profile. Their project "The Mass of Money" will examine the relationship between economic systems, cosmological models, and data visualization through an immersive audiovisual installation. Preparations for Quadrature's residency are currently underway. Collaborations with researchers from economics, mathematics, finance, linguistics, astrophysics, and data science, as well as with the Dresden University of Fine Arts (HfBK Dresden), are being initiated. Workshops, lectures, seminars, and public events are planned for the Summer term of 2026 to create multiple interfaces between artistic research, teaching, and academic exchange.

Throughout the reporting period, the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden increasingly operated not only as an artistic program, but as a connective infrastructure within the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden: by linking exhibitions, conferences, publications, academic research, and public engagement.

The final presentation of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2026 will open in September 2026 in conjunction with the international closing conference **Data↔Worlds** and will present the artistic outcomes of the residency at the University Gallery of the Office for Academic Heritage, Scientific and Art Collections (Kustodie) until January 2027. In this sense, the residency continues to function as a dynamic site of encounter between artistic experimentation, scientific reflection, and societal negotiation.

With the forthcoming third funding phase, the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden will increasingly focus on artistic research addressing the cultural, ecological, infrastructural, and political dimensions of contemporary energy transformations. Against the backdrop of current debates in environmental humanities, media ecology, and contemporary art, particular attention will be given to the material and energy-intensive conditions underlying digital cultures, technological infrastructures, and data-driven societies. In this context, artistic research can contribute to making so far often invisible systems of resource extraction, energy consumption, and technological interdependence perceptible while opening speculative perspectives on possible futures. The university's teaching and research collections at the Office for Academic Heritage will serve as important points of departure for investigations into the histories and futures of industrial energy systems, scientific infrastructures, and environmental transformation processes. Future collaborations with regional and international partners – including institutions and initiatives connected to ongoing transformation processes in Lusatia – will further strengthen the dialogue between artistic research, scientific inquiry, technological development, and societal change.

In addition to its academic and artistic activities, the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden has significantly expanded its public engagement efforts, both locally and internationally. Through a comprehensive digital communication strategy – including its website, social media channels, and newsletters – the Lab has enhanced its visibility and broadened its outreach to diverse audiences. This year also marked a period of transition within the Lab's Public Relations team: Carolin Kost, who had taken on the role in May 2024, departed the project in October 2025. Her departure marked the loss of a dedicated and imaginative colleague whose contributions were deeply valued. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Stephan Wiegand, who will join the Lab in May 2026. He is expected to bring both creativity and expertise to the position, ensuring the continued success of our communication efforts.

As we reflect on the transformations, achievements, and milestones of the past year, we remain profoundly grateful to THE SCHAUFLER FOUNDATION, our partners, and the wider research community at TUD for their steadfast support and collaboration. Together, we have cultivated a unique environment where innovative ideas and interdisciplinary dialogue can thrive. With this strong foundation, we look forward to building on our successes and embracing the opportunities that lie ahead.

Orit Halpern
Moritz Ingwersen
Kirsten Vincenz

The Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden visiting SCHAUWERK Sindelfingen
Photo: Frank Kleinbach
© The Schaufler Foundation



STRATEGIC OUTLINE AND COMMITTEE WORK

GUIDING THEME FOR THE THIRD FUNDING PHASE: ENERGY CULTURES IN TRANSITION

In October 2025, preparations began for a third funding phase (Start: April 2027) with the new guiding theme **Energy Cultures in Transition**. The energy transition represents far more than a solely technological shift; rather, it requires a fundamental transformation of cultural practices, societal values, and socio-ecological relations. The new guiding theme **Energy Cultures in Transition** understands energy as a cultural phenomenon deeply inscribed in aesthetic, historical, political, ecological, economic, and socio-technological practices and systems. Building on the dynamically growing research fields of the energy humanities, science and technology studies, and the digital humanities, the aim is to examine how modern energy regimes – from petromodernity, to nuclear culture, and post-carbon futures – have shaped not only material infrastructures but also subjectivities, power relations, progress narratives, geopolitical orders, ecologies, and knowledge systems, while simultaneously being shaped by them.

Interdisciplinary perspectives from the social sciences and humanities represented at the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden will enable the analysis of the multifaceted entanglements of energy, culture, and society. The focus will encompass historicizing questions about the representation, communication, and aesthetics of energy transitions and resource paradigms as well as continuities between resource economies and information economies, the relationships between energy, labor, environment, and consumer culture, and the role of colonialism, gender, nationalism, geopolitics, education, and social justice in deciding energy futures and navigating collective transformation processes.

The guiding theme of the third funding phase is equally relevant and integral to the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden. Contemporary artistic practices play a vital role in addressing questions of resources, sustainability, and energy transition through speculative, critical, and aesthetic engagements with global transformation processes.

In February 2026, the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden issued a broad call within TUD's School of Humanities and Social Sciences to gather statements of interest from potential supervisors for the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden. The plan is to publish individual calls for doctoral applications tailored to the specific disciplines of the confirmed supervisors. Final approval of the prospective supervisors is anticipated by May 2026.

REPORT FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD AND SCHAUFLER LAB BOARD

The Advisory Board and the Schaufler Lab Board worked closely together throughout 2025 to ensure the continued success of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden while preparing for its future strategic directions. Both bodies played distinct but complementary roles: the Advisory Board focused on broader strategic oversight, while the Schaufler Lab Board concentrated on operational details and the implementation of the Lab's programs.

During the second funding phase, the **Advisory Board**, which meets annually, is composed of the following members:

Prof. Dr. Ursula M. Staudinger, Rector TUD

Prof. Dr. Hans Müller-Steinhagen, Former Rector TUD, TSF Board of Trustees

Ingo Smit, Chairman of the TSF Management Board

Prof. Dr. Christian Prunitsch, Chair of Western Slavic Literatures and Cultural Studies, Institute of Slavic Studies, Speaker of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dean of the Faculty of Linguistics, Literature and Cultural Studies, TUD

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang E. Nagel, Chair of Computer Architecture at the Institute of Computer Engineering, Director of the Center for Information Services and High-Performance Computing (ZIH), TUD, Director of the Center for Scalable Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (ScaDS.AI)

Gerfried Stocker, Artistic Director Ars Electronica, Linz

The fifth Advisory Board meeting convened on October 24, 2025, to review the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's progress and provide strategic guidance. The meeting opened with a summary of the progress and achievements from the first year of the current

funding phase. However, the primary focus was the presentation of the guiding theme proposal for the third funding phase, **Energy Cultures in Transition**. The proposed theme received broad approval, with the Advisory Board noting its alignment with TUD's new Excellence Strategy clusters, particularly "REC²: Responsible Electronics in the Climate Change Era" and "CARE: Climate-Neutral and Resource-Efficient Construction". The meeting concluded with several key recommendations to strengthen the Lab's future activities. These included refining the selection process for Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden supervisors and exploring the possibility of extending the third funding phase to align with the German Research Foundation's (DFG) recommendation of four-year contract terms for doctoral programs in the humanities and social sciences.

The **Schaufler Lab Board**, as the governing body responsible for the Lab's daily operations and long-term planning, met twice in 2025: on January 14 and December 15. The Board addressed structural challenges, expanded programmatic activities, and advanced preparations for the next funding phase, thereby reinforcing the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's position as a leading platform for interdisciplinary inquiry and artistic experimentation.

The Board is composed of the following voting members:

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Moritz Ingwersen, Spokesperson Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden

Prof. Dr. Orit Halpern, Co-Spokesperson Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden

Kirsten Vincenz, Spokesperson Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden

Prof. Dr. Lutz Hagen, Jun.-Prof. Dr. Katharina Kaesling, Prof. Dr. Sabine-Müller-Mall, Prof. Dr. Birte Platow, Prof. Dr. Kerstin Schankweiler, Main Supervisors of the Doctoral Students

Gwendolin Kremer, Curator / Representative of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden

Dr. Özgün Eylül İşcen, Postdoc Researcher, Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden

Alexandra Lorch, Representative of the Doctoral Students

Dr. Anke Woschech, Coordinator Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden

Across both meetings, the Board reviewed the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden and Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden programs, commending their achievements while identifying areas for further development. The Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden continued to support its PhD cohort through initiatives such as writing retreats and advanced dissertation workshops, which help candidates progress toward the completion of their projects. Supervisors noted overall satisfaction with the cohort's progress, though additional support was recommended for candidates in the later stages of their dissertations. The Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden also showcased its interdisciplinary strengths, with Mario Pfeifer's project "Beyond the Binaries" in 2025 exemplifying the Lab's commitment to fostering collaboration between art and science. Plans for the 2026 residency with the artist duo Quadrature were also reviewed, with the Board expressing enthusiasm for the project's planned exploration of economic and cosmological data systems.

A key focus of the Board's meeting in December 2025 was the preparation for the Lab's third funding application. The Board worked on operationalizing the guiding theme, including refining the selection process for supervisors and thematic calls.



COOPERATIONS AND EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 29–30, 2025
CONFERENCE “PERFORMING TRANSFORMATION”

The interdisciplinary two-day conference “Performing Transformation: Shifting Landscapes in Art, Science, and Technology” brought together researchers, artists, and practitioners to examine how knowledge is produced, embodied, and contested at the intersections of art, science, and technology during times of rapid societal change. The event encouraged participants to reflect on how transformations within economic, political, cultural, ecological, and technological contexts provoke significant epistemic shifts. These shifts challenge existing power structures, identity constructions, and systems of knowledge, prompting the need for new methods of unlearning, relearning, and co-creating.



Conference "Performing Transformation"
Photo: Declan Galbraith

The program featured artist talks, performative lectures, and keynote speeches by Antonia Majaca (Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia), Susanne Kriemann (Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design), and Detlef Schweiger (artist, Dresden), who offered interdisciplinary perspectives on the evolving relationship between art, science, and technology. In addition, panel sessions and workshops addressed pressing topics, including art-science in public spaces, post-industrial landscapes, and digital archive and image history, with contributions from Michael Klipphahn-Karge (Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig), Liat Grayver (artist, Berlin), Emanuel Matthias (artist, Leipzig), Michaela Büsse (TUD), and Till Ansgar Baumhauer (Nürtingen-Geislingen University), among others. Complementing these discussions, artistic installations and screenings were presented by artists and collectives such as Su Yu Hsin (Berlin), Quadrature (Juliane Götz and Sebastian Neitsch), Monika Huber (München), Carolin Melia Brendel (University of the Arts Bremen), and others, whose works and presentations provided thought-provoking visual and performative explorations of transformation.



Theda Nilsson-Eicke presenting her S+T+ARTS Ec(h)o residency project at the conference “Performing Transformation”
Photo: SLAB

This inspiring event was organized by the artistic research infrastructures of TUD, including the SchauflerLab@TU Dresden, TUDiSC, the Interactive Science Lab, the Emerging Field Societal Change, and the S+T+ARTS Ec(h)o artistic residency program, hosted by the Office for Academic Heritage (Kustodie). The conference also received partial support from the Walter De Gruyter Foundation. By creating a space for dialogue and collaboration across disciplines, the conference underscored that transformation is not a static endpoint but an ongoing process that requires shared resources, resilient infrastructures, and strong communities to ensure its long-term impact.

OCTOBER 7, 2025
SYMPOSIUM “UNPACKING GENERATIVITY”

On October 7, 2025, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden hosted the symposium "Unpacking Generativity: Epistemology, Politics, and Aesthetics of Generative AI Systems." Organized by the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden doctoral candidates Jasmin Höning (History of Art), Nelly Saibel (Political Science), and Niklas Egberts (Cultural Studies), the event brought together scholars from diverse disciplines to critically examine the concept of generativity in the context of AI.



Symposium organizing team: Nelly Saibel, Jasmin Höning, and Niklas Egbert with Prof. Orit Halpern, spokesperson Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden
Photo: Bastian Stock

Moving beyond purely technical and commercial perspectives, the symposium examined generativity as a cultural, epistemic, and political phenomenon, emphasizing its societal impact and the questions it raises about power, responsibility, and cultural transformation. The term "generativity" has become increasingly prominent in discussions of AI, referring to systems that autonomously create content such as texts, images, and videos. However, its broader implications often remain vague and insufficiently defined. The symposium addressed this gap by situating the concept within the intersections of politics, economy, contesting knowledge systems, and visual culture. Key questions explored included what generative AI systems reveal or exclude, their societal implications, and the power structures they reflect and reinforce.

The program featured stimulating and insightful keynotes by Sun-ha Hong (University of North Carolina), Rainer Mühlhoff (University of Osnabrück), and Vera Tollmann (Leuphana University), alongside enriching talks by Yannick Nepomuk Fritz (Basel University), Konstantin Mitrokhov (Leuphana University), Nora Freya Lindemann (Osnabrück University), Sandeep Mertia (Stevens Institute of Technology), Alexandra Gilliams (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University), and Larissa Lenze (Paderborn University). The topics discussed ranged from the epistemological impact of generative AI systems to their entanglement with societal power relations and their influence on contemporary aesthetics. The event concluded with a panel discussion moderated by Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's postdoc researcher Özgün Eylül İşcen, which synthesized the insights from the day. Discussions emphasized the authoritarian tendencies of generative AI, the erosion of democratic values, and the role of institutions in fostering critical reflection. Overall, the symposium highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary dialogue in understanding the societal and cultural implications of generative AI. It underscored the essential role of the humanities and social sciences in critically examining technological developments and their broader consequences.



Poster "Staying in Dialogue"
© SLAB

OCTOBER 23, 2025
PUBLIC PANEL DISCUSSION "STAYING IN DIALOGUE: HOW COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN ART AND SCIENCE CREATE A SHARED PLATFORM"

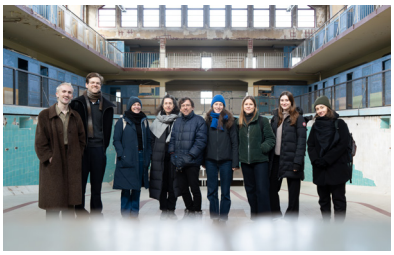
The team of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden hosted the public dialogue event "Staying in Dialogue: How Collaborations between Art and Science Create a Shared Platform" on October 23, 2025. The speakers included Ingo Smit (THE SCHAUFLER FOUNDATION), Prof. Catherina G. Becker (TUD/CRTD), Kirsten Vincenz (Office for Academic Heritage, TUD), and Carolyn Kirschner (S+T+ARTS Ec(h)o Residency, TUD). The discussion was moderated by Dr. Lucas von Ramin (School of Humanities and Social Sciences, TUD).

From artistic, scientific, and science policy perspectives alike, the discussion highlighted both the potential and the challenges inherent in collaborations between art and science. It also demonstrated why art-science formats such as the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden represent experimentation, risk-taking, and, not least, a remarkable stroke of luck for both fields when it comes to examining complex questions from multiple perspectives.

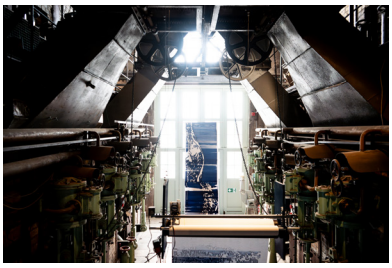
FEBRUARY 11, 2026
“ALTERNATING CURRENT”: THE SCHAUFLER LAB@TU DRESDEN VISITS E-WERK LUCKENWALDE

On February 11, the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden visited E-WERK Luckenwalde – a former lignite-fired power plant that now functions as a venue for contemporary art, a research laboratory for art electricity and ecological reflection. The location itself makes it clear how closely linked issues of technology, resources, and societal responsibility are: where once fossil energy was generated, now artistic positions flourish in cooperation with Akademie der Künste dealing with the conditions of the technologically shaped present.

The Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden’s visit focused on the exhibition "Mensch Maschine: Return to Earth". The guided tour of the historic building with Niels Boogers provided valuable insight into artistic works that were created as part of the residencies. The artistic positions presented negotiate the current climate crisis conversation against the backdrop of digitalization and artificial intelligence – and extend this perspective to non-human living beings and planetary systems.







Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden visits E-Werk Luckenwalde
Photo: Stephan Wiegand / SLAB

OUTLOOK
DATA↔WORLDS – FINAL CONFERENCE OF THE SECOND FUNDING PHASE, SCHAUFLER LAB@TU DRESDEN

In November 2025, the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden began preparations for the international conference **Data↔Worlds**, scheduled to take place from September 28–30, 2026, at TUD. The conference will mark the culmination of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden’s second phase under the guiding theme **Data↔Worlds. Socio-Technical and Cultural Syntheses of New Realities**. It will address the societal and planetary implications of data-driven technologies across domains such as governance, power, culture, and the environment, approaching thematic strands including datafied decision-making, data ecologies, data fascisms, data beliefs, data epistemologies, aesthetics, and hermeneutics, as well as questions of data em(power)ment and more just futures. The Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden fellows will develop these thematic strands into suitable panels and roundtable formats, featuring multiple invited speakers and promoting rich and sustained interdisciplinary exchange. Conceived as a multi-format gathering in parallel with the opening of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden exhibition of Quadrature, **Data↔Worlds** will bring together scholars, artists, and practitioners who have contributed to the Lab’s activities via seminars, conferences, exhibitions, videocasts, and publications. It provides a platform to reflect on ongoing research, engage shared questions, and explore future directions collaboratively. The conference will feature keynote lectures by Louise Amoore (Professor of Political Geography, Durham University), whose work examines how data-driven technologies reshape practices of security, risk, and governance; Joanna Zylinska (Professor of Media Philosophy + Critical Digital Practice, King's College London), whose research addresses data, media, and art from a planetary perspective, focusing on ecological crisis, deep time, and human–machine relations; and Manuela Naveau (artist, researcher, and and Professor for Interface Cultures / Critical Data, University of Arts Linz), whose work connects closely to the conference theme while providing a strong artistic perspective and extensive experience in artistic–scientific collaboration, alongside establishing links to the work of Quadrature.

"Data↔Worlds" Final Conference of the Second Funding Phase, Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden, autumn 2026
© SLAB

Final Conference
Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden
DATA↔WORLDS
28.–30.9.
2026
TUD Dresden University of Technology, Görges-Bau


24
Anton Gir
Dresden
Vjice
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Christian Kosmas Mayer

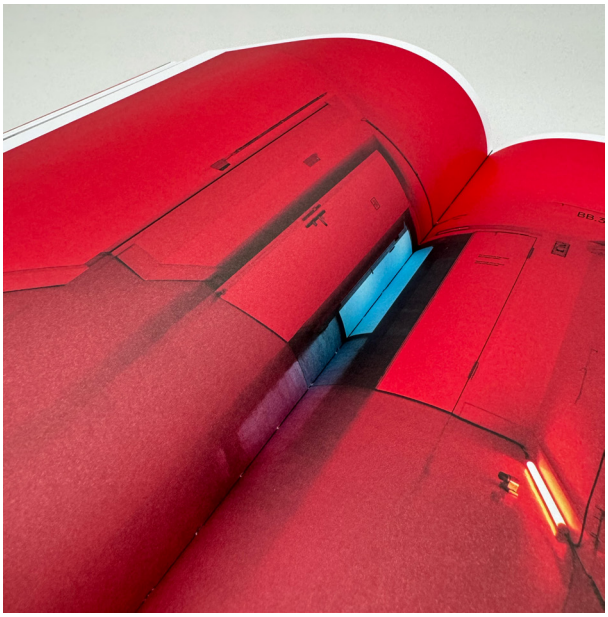
PUBLICATIONS

ARTISTS BOOKS

The publication activities of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden received international recognition during the reporting period. The Artist Book series published in collaboration with Sandstein Kultur and developed within the framework of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden was awarded the 16th International Creative Media Award (ICMA) 2025. Selected from more than 360 international submissions, the publication *Voice without Breath – Christian Kosmas Mayer* received the GOLD award in the category "Book Typography, Layout." In addition, the entire Artist Book series – including *Voice without Breath – Christian Kosmas Mayer, Dresden Modular – Anton Ginzburg,* and *24/7 Big Data – Esmeralda Conde Ruiz* – was awarded SILVER in the category "Book Series." The awards highlight the growing international visibility of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden publications and underscore the importance of the Artist Book series as an integral component of the program's artistic and research-based activities.

The publication series will be further expanded with the Artist Book accompanying the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2024 by Lena von Goedeke, scheduled for publication in September 2026, as well as the publication accompanying the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2026 by Quadrature, planned for March 2027.







Artist Books published by Sandstein Kultur
© Sandstein Kultur

IN PLANNING

"BEYOND DECISIONS: REIMAGINING DECISION-MAKING IN THE AGE OF DATAFICATION" (BOOK VOLUME) EDITED BY JOHANNA GROSCHE, ALEXANDRA LORCH, AND NELLY SAIBEL

Responding to ongoing academic debates on datafied decision-making, the publication project "Beyond Decisions: Reimagining Decision-Making in the Age of Datafication" will examine the datafication of political, legal, and environmental decision-making processes. The anthology, edited by Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden fellows Johanna Grosche, Alexandra Lorch, and Nelly Saibel, seeks to unpack the influence of socio-technical decision-making on governance, power relations, and social norms from an interdisciplinary and critically reflective perspective.

Datafied decision-making has only recently emerged as a subject of critical analysis in the humanities and social sciences, despite its growing influence across social systems and global interdependencies. Addressing this gap, the edited volume examines the datafication of political, legal, and environmental decision-making processes, while critically unpacking their implications for governance, power relations, and social justice. Through an interdisciplinary approach, it fosters reflective discussion on the ethical, epistemological, political, and legal dimensions of data-driven decision-making and explores potential responses to contemporary socio-technical challenges.

Environmental studies contribute a critical lens by interrogating how technological responses to environmental crises reshape our understanding of nature, agency, and knowledge. In the legal domain, data-driven decision-making and judicial analytics promise efficiency but raise urgent questions about transparency, accountability, and the risk of reinforcing biases – particularly in relation to justice, autonomy, and discrimination. From the perspective of political philosophy, datafied decision-making emerges as a profoundly political process in which the rationalities of decision-making are shifting from discursive toward computational methods, challenging liberal democracy by limiting the space for contingency and alternative futures.

The volume is the result of a widely distributed call for abstracts in summer 2025, which attracted a large number of high-quality international submissions. While initially conceived as a bilingual project, the editors ultimately decided to publish the anthology in English to better reflect its global scope. The contributions span a wide range of disciplines, including law, environmental studies, science and technology studies, anthropology, ethnology, critical data studies, postcolonial studies, philosophy, and political science. Authors are based in Canada, Taiwan, India, and the United States, addressing topics such as algorithmic decision-making in criminal sentencing, the politics of healthcare decision-making in Belize, datafied environmental pollution monitoring, and critical data studies from the Global South, among others.

On January 28 and 30, 2026, the editors hosted a two-day workshop to peer-discuss the submissions, creating a space for interdisciplinary and international collaboration in the humanities and social sciences. By February 2026, the editors had prepared a book proposal and began contacting academic publishers that best fit the project, including Routledge, Transcript, and Nomos.

"(DE)MYSTIFYING DATA BELIEFS: SPECULATIVE FUTURES FOR A CRITICAL PRESENT" (SPECIAL ISSUE) EDITED BY MARIE BRIESE, ANDREW ERICKSON, JASMIN HÖNING, AND ALEXANDRA LORCH

The special issue "(De)Mystifying Data Beliefs: Speculative Futures for a Critical Present", developed by Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden PhD candidates Marie Briese, Andrew Erickson, Jasmin Höning, and Alexandra Lorch, examines how data is imbued with cultural meaning, authority, and belief across different spheres and domains. Moving beyond purely technical perspectives, the initiative critically interrogates the assumptions, narratives, and imaginaries that shape how data is understood and trusted in contemporary society.

The interdisciplinary approach of the special issue highlights how theology, law, science fiction, and visual media studies each offer critical insights into the challenges and implications of data-driven societies. In theology, digitalization prompts reflection on the tension between vast computational systems and concepts such as a personal God, underscoring the need for theological engagement with technological change. In law, the growing reliance on algorithmic decision-making exposes risks of bias, opacity, and shifting authority, raising questions about the need for a digital rule of law grounded in transparency and accountability. Science-fictional narratives further illuminate how imagined futures shape technological development, often anticipating or inspiring real-world innovations while also functioning as critical reflections on their societal consequences. In visual media studies, generative AI is interpreted as signaling a shift from causal explanation to correlation-based "magical thinking," while artistic practices both critique the mystification of technology and explore its speculative potential.

The special issue aims to explore alternative futures and challenge dominant paradigms by combining perspectives from the humanities, social sciences, and artistic research. In doing so, the project seeks to encourage further dialogue on how data practices can be reimagined in more reflexive, inclusive, and socially responsible ways.

By March 2026, the team had completed the call for papers and began evaluating submissions. They have identified several suitable peer-reviewed journals and will proceed with contacting them once the final list of contributors, both invited and selected through the call, is confirmed.



Artist Book "24/7 Big Data – Esmeralda Conde Ruiz" published by Sandstein Kultur © Sandstein Kultur

PUBLIC RELATIONS

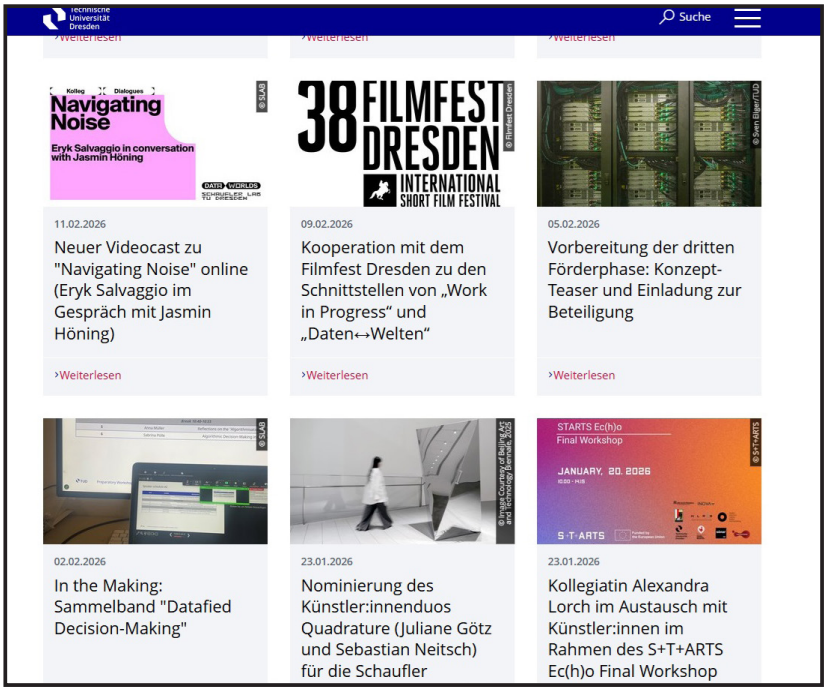
PUBLIC RELATIONS AND OUTREACH

Since its establishment, the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden has developed a distinctive and highly successful communication strategy that combines strong local engagement with growing national and international visibility. Reflecting the Lab's unique transdisciplinary profile and its commitment to fostering dialogue between art, science, and society, communication activities address diverse audiences across academia, the arts, cultural institutions, and the wider public.

A key factor in the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's recognizable public profile is its long-standing collaboration with the Leipzig-based design studio *happy little accidents*. Together with the established visual identity of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden, this partnership ensures a professional and coherent appearance across all communication channels, ranging from exhibitions, publications, and printed materials to social media campaigns and digital formats.

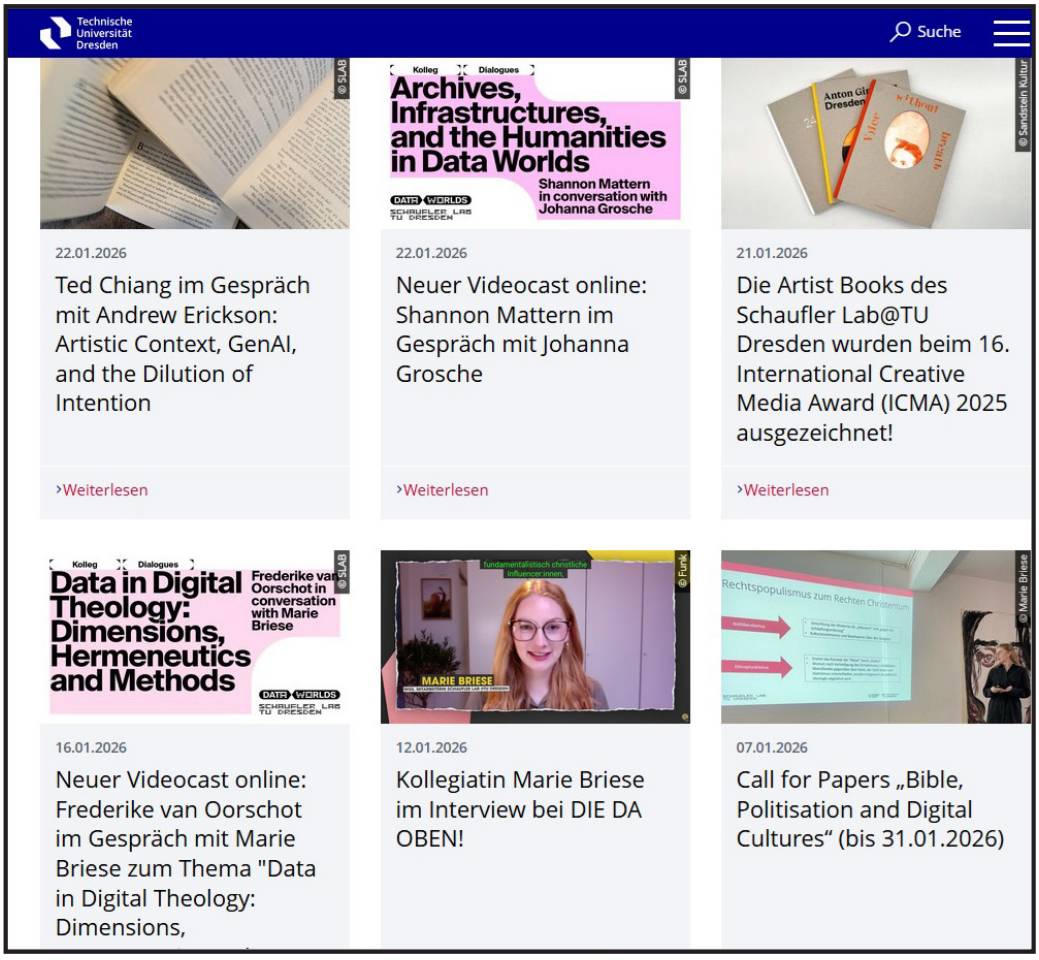
Public events played a particularly important role in strengthening the Lab's visibility and expanding its networks during the reporting period. The international conference "Performing Transformation", jointly organized by the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden, TUDiSC, the Interactive Science Lab, the Emerging Field of Societal Change, and the artist-in-residence program S+T+ARTS Ec(h)o, successfully brought together artistic, scientific, and technological perspectives. Through an open call and an interdisciplinary program, the conference attracted participants from diverse disciplinary backgrounds and helped establish new collaborations within TUD and beyond. By connecting artistic and scholarly contributions, the event reached a broad and diverse national audience and additionally strengthened the Lab's reputation as a platform for transdisciplinary exchange.

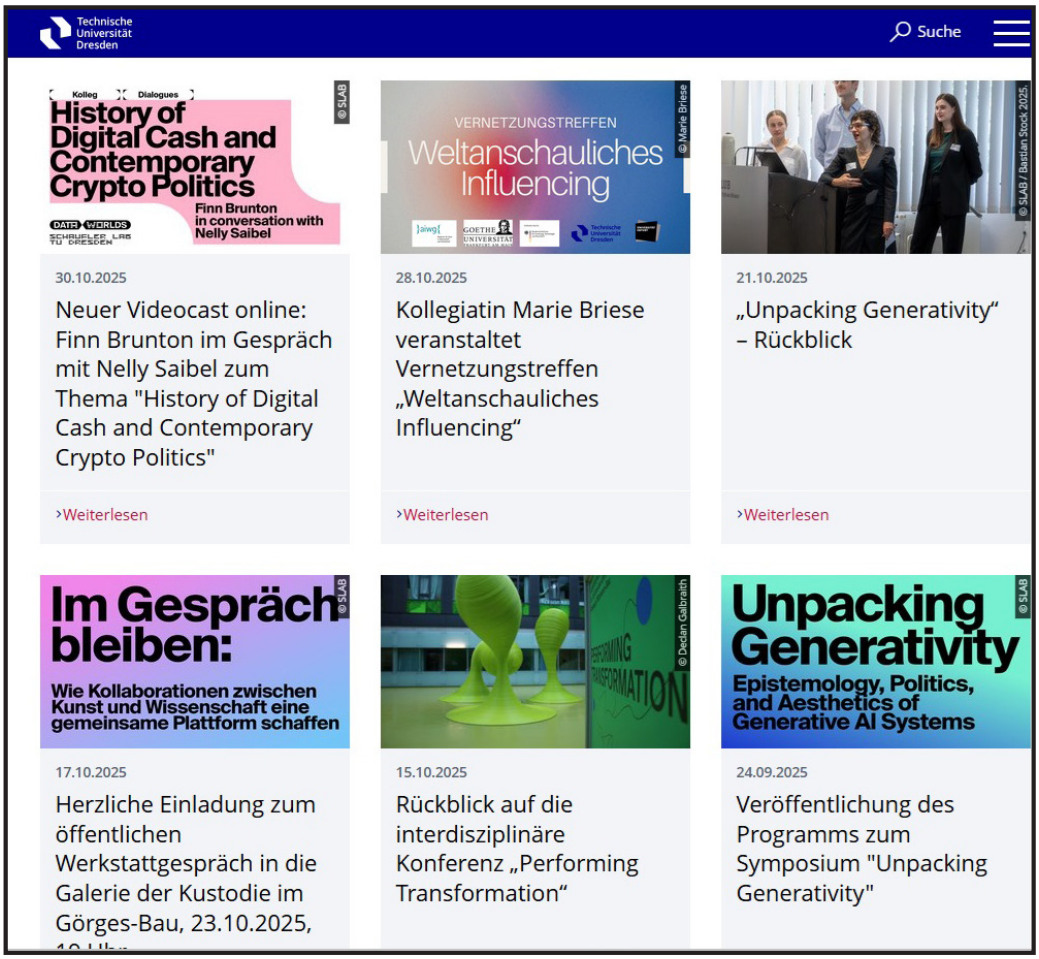
The symposium "Unpacking Generativity" further expanded the international visibility of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden in the rapidly growing field of critical AI and generativity studies. Through an international call for abstracts and the Lab's extensive academic networks, the symposium brought together leading scholars from the United States, Switzerland, Germany, and Austria, creating an important forum for interdisciplinary debate on the epistemological, political, and aesthetic implications of generative AI systems.

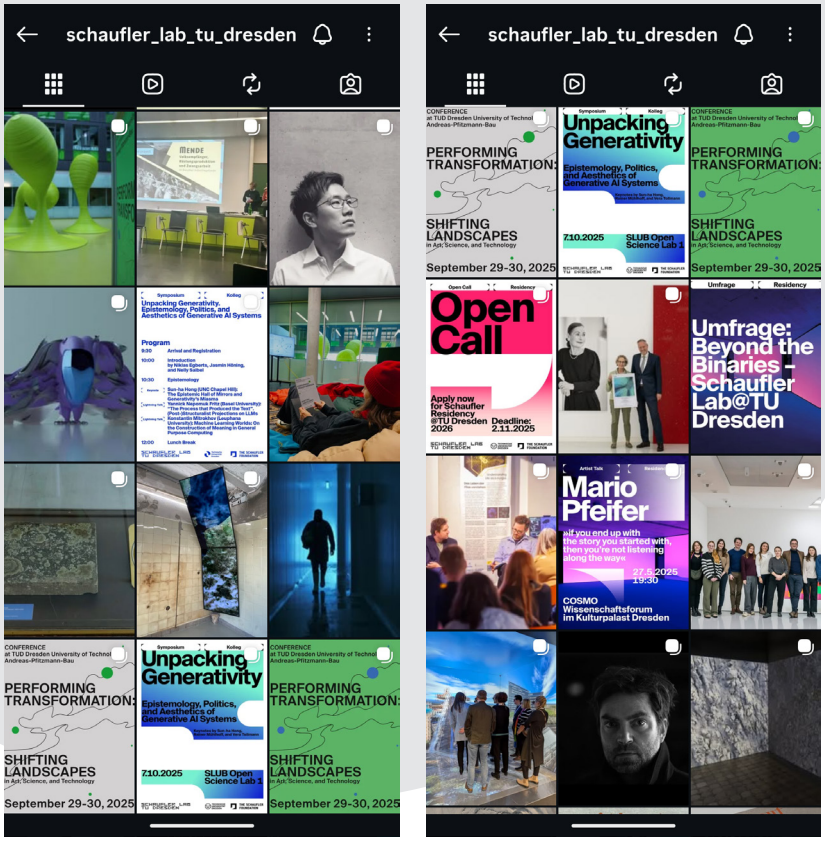


Website screenshot showing current news, events, and activities of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden
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Website screenshot showing current news, events, and activities of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden
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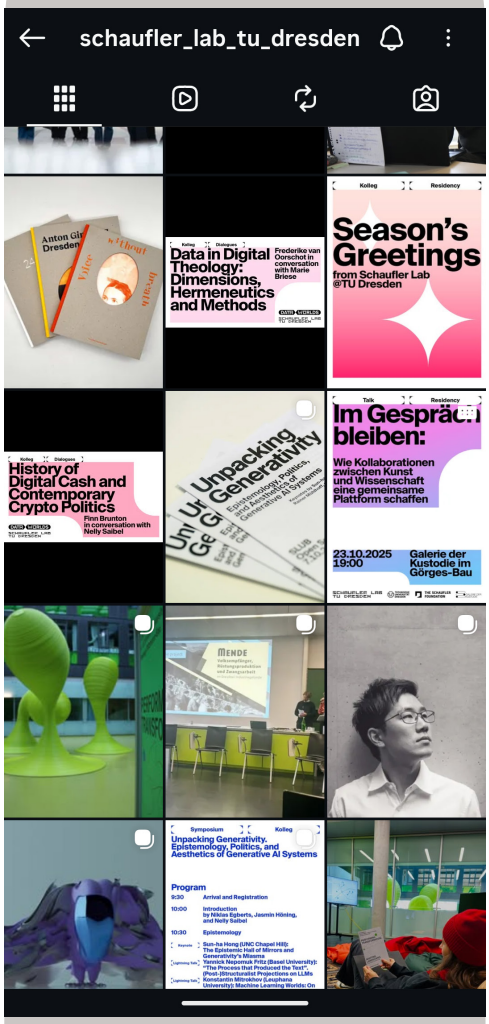
Screenshots from the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden Instagram account highlighting exhibitions, events, and research activities © SLAB

THE SCHAUFLER LAB@TU DRESDEN ONLINE WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, NEWSLETTER

The Lab's digital communication channels continued to grow significantly throughout the reporting period. The Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden website remains the central digital platform of the second funding phase, regularly showcasing the activities of both the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden and the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden through news articles, event announcements, project updates, and documentation of ongoing research and artistic activities.

Social media continues to be a key driver of visibility and community building. Between May 2025 and May 2026, the Instagram account *@schaufler_lab_tu_dresden* grew by more than 28%, reaching a total of 1,287 followers. At the same time, communication activity increased substantially, with 36 posts published during the reporting period. To further strengthen connections with academic audiences and professional networks, the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden launched its LinkedIn presence in January 2026. Within only a few months, the platform attracted 77 followers and established itself as an important complement to the Lab's social media strategy.

The Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden newsletter continued to serve as an effective communication tool for informing partners, collaborators, and interested audiences about current developments, events, and research activities. Between May 2025 and March 2026, six newsletter editions were distributed to more than 1,100 subscribers. With an average open rate of 46%, the newsletter achieved exceptionally strong engagement and demonstrates the permanent interest in the Lab's activities among its growing national and international community.

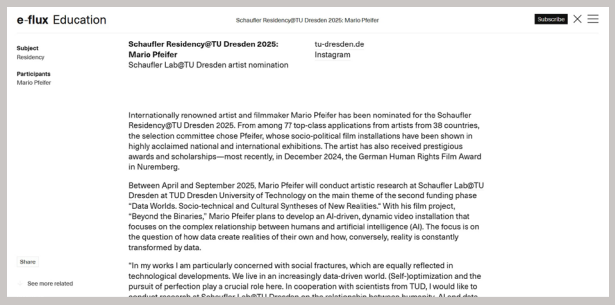


PRESS ADS

The Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden publishes the open call and announcements for the final exhibitions of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden in international and regional magazines, journals, and online platforms. These publications raise awareness of the Lab's activities and formats among local audiences while strengthening the international visibility of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden.

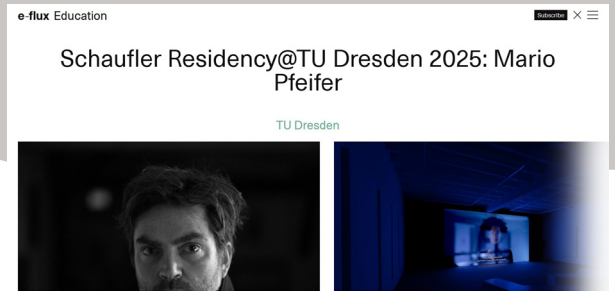


Advertisement for the Open Call of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2026, published in Kunstforum International
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Announcement Schaufler Residency@TU Dreden 2026: Quadrature, published in e-flux
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Announcement Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2025: Mario Pfeifer, published in e-flux
© SLAB

POSTDOC POSITION

DR: ÖZGÜN EYLÜL İŞCEN

SCHAUFLER KOLLEG@TU DRESDEN

Özgün Eylül İşcen
Photo: Stephan Wiegand / SLAB

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND HIGHLIGHTS

The reporting period activities reflect Özgün Eylül İşcen's dual role as coordinator of the Graduate Program and postdoc researcher at the Schaufler Lab@ TU Dresden, where she contributes to doctoral training, interdisciplinary programming, and independent research at the intersection of art, technology, and geopolitical aesthetics. Within the interdisciplinary ecosystem of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden, her work bridges doctoral mentorship, institutional collaboration, and rigorous independent inquiry. Her research focuses on positioning migrant art practices within critical debates on digital transformations, extractivist economies, and planetary futures.

Coordination of Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden Training

Bi-weekly Colloquia Organized and led regular colloquia throughout the summer and winter 2025 terms. These sessions, attended by Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden fellows and speakers, serve as the primary forum for scholarly exchange on themes related to **Data↔Worlds**, while also strengthening peer-to-peer support.

Dissertation Workshop (November 5, 2025) Coordinated a workshop in which fellows circulated dissertation materials (expanded outlines or chapter drafts) to receive structured and constructive feedback from peers, Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden speakers, and supervisors.

Mentoring of doctoral researchers Provided theoretical and practical support for scholarly initiatives by Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden fellows, including the symposium "Unpacking Generativity", the edited volume "Beyond Decisions: Reimagining Decision-Making in the Age of Datafication", and the special issue "(De)Mystifying Data Beliefs: Speculative Futures for a Critical Present" (in preparation).

Dialogue with the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden Collaborated with the Schaufler Residency@ TU Dresden to maintain intellectual exchange and public-outreach formats, including dialogue between doctoral researchers and artists-in-residence, as well as interdisciplinary academic events such as the conference "Performing Transformation".

Interdisciplinary Collaborations and Organized Events

International Conference "Performing Transformation:



Shifting Landscapes in Art, Science, and Technology", co-organized together with Robert Fischer, Pauline Hohn, Clara Jacobi, Gwendolin Kremer, Lucas von Ramin, TUD, Dresden, September 29–30, 2025.

Research Studio "Ghost Mines: Sensing Pasts, Casting Futures", co-organized together with Michaela Büsse, Kristiane Fehrs, and Orit Halpern, TUD, Dresden, June 2–6, 2025.

Conference Coordination (ongoing, in collaboration with the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden team): program development for **Data↔Worlds**, Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden Closing Conference, TUD, Dresden, September 28–30, 2026.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH PROGRESS AND OUTPUT

Submitted Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Gulf Futurism and Its Discontents: A Quest for Multi-Cosmotechnics." In Recursive Colonialism, Artificial Intelligence & Speculative Computation, ed. by Critical Computation Bureau (L. Parisi, E. Dixon-Román, T. Terranova, O. Pârvan, B. D'Aquino), Durham: Duke University Press, forthcoming in spring 2027.

"The Geopolitical Aesthetic of Oil, Data, and 3D: Refiguring the Unknown in Morehshin Allahyari's *Material Speculations*." In Cultural Politics (Special Issue: Weird Geographies, ed. by J. Turnbul et al.), under review.

"AI as a Ghostly Matter: Where Political Accountability Lies." In Shifting Natures: Environment, Artificial Intelligence, Gender, ed. by F. Buongiorno, A. Bazzoni, and X. Chiaramonte, Berlin: ICI Berlin Press, under review.

Co-curated online exhibition series

Nadia Christidi and Özgün Eylül İşcen, "Planetary Urbanisms," Against Catastrophe Reclaiming Futures Series, summer 2025. Graphic and web design by Tal Halpern.

Scholarly Presentations

Keynote speaker, "Reclaiming Decolonialization! Heritage, Geopolitics, Resistance," Decolonising Cultural Heritage: State of the Art, Methodologies, and Practices, University for Foreigners of Siena, Siena (Italy), May 5–6, 2025.

Roundtable speaker, "Uncovering to Heal: Introducing Audiovisual Healing and Reparation Room," NECS European Network for Cinema and Media Studies, Annual Conference, Universidade Lusófona, Lisbon (Portugal), June 19–21, 2025.

Presenter, *"From the Deep Sea to Outer Space: Reclaiming New Frontiers through Migrant Art Practices,"* Dresdner Kolloquium für Kunst- und Bildwissenschaft, TUD, Dresden, February 16–17, 2026.

Roundtable speaker, "Spatializations and Temporalities," Tracing Power: Supply Chains As Map, Method, and Metaphor, University Bielefeld, Center for Interdisciplinary Research, February 25–27, 2026.

Summer School

The EUTOPIA Spring School on Environmental Humanities (EH) as a Regenerative Process: Reconnecting Ethics, Knowledge, and Action, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, May 19–23, 2025.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

VolkswagenStiftung – Change! Fellowship

Project Proposal "Acts of Transformation: Artistic Research in Shaping Saxony's Technoscientific Futures"

The proposed project investigates how artistic research can contribute to regional transformation processes in Saxony, focusing on the societal implications of technoscientific developments. It proposes a series of artistic research residencies employing archival, multisensory, and speculative methods at the intersection of art, digital media, and scientific inquiry.

Role Prospective Principal Investigator

Partners HELLERAU European Centre for the Arts (main partner), German Centre for Astrophysics (DZA), Dresden-Concept Network

Application April 2, 2025

Outcome Not funded (decision: July 24, 2025)

DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft – Temporary Position for Principal Investigators (in progress)

Project "Digital Frontiers: Extractive Futurity and Migratory Aesthetics in Contemporary Europe"

The project develops a cultural theory of digital frontiers, examining how data infrastructures transform oceanic and extraterrestrial environments into sites of extraction. It introduces the concept of "extractive futurity" and analyzes how artistic and media practices challenge these dynamics through situated and migratory perspectives.

Planned submission September 2026

ACADEMIC SUPERVISION

Second Supervisor, MA Thesis

"Decolonizing Processes through Afropean Artistic Practices in Belgium," Master's Thesis by Amrei Paula Schöntag, Linguistics, Literature, and Cultural Studies, TUD, September 2025.

DOCTORAL PROJECTS

During the 2025–2026 academic year, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden provided a structured framework for the development of doctoral research projects, including support for the preparation of thesis outlines and chapter drafts. The Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden continued its bi-weekly colloquium series throughout the reporting period, serving as a platform for interdisciplinary exchange and the discussion of both individual and collective research progress. Particular emphasis was placed on supporting doctoral research through formats such as a writing retreat in April 2025 and the second annual dissertation workshop in November 2025, where each Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden fellow's research methods, preliminary findings, and initial written work were presented and discussed with structured feedback from peers and supervisors.

The Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden further expanded its interdisciplinary activities within its research focus on **Data↔Worlds**, addressing how data-driven systems transform economies, politics, environments, and knowledge practices. The Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden fellows Niklas Egberts, Jasmin Höning, and Nelly Saibel organized the international symposium "Unpacking Generativity," which brought together scholars from diverse fields to engage with key questions related to generativity in data-driven systems. In addition, starting in May 2025, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden launched the Dialogues-Videocast Series, an online interview format featuring experts from relevant disciplines. The fellows conducted eight videocast interviews, contributing to scholarly exchange and public engagement.

In parallel, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden launched academic publishing initiatives, including an edited volume on "Beyond Decisions: Reimagining Decision-Making in the Age of Datafication" (edited by Johanna Grosche, Alexandra Lorch, and Nelly Saibel), which will examine the datafication of political, legal, and environmental decision-making processes and its implications for governance, power relations, and social norms. A special issue on "(De)Mystifying Data Beliefs: Speculative Futures for a Critical Present" (edited by Marie Briese, Andrew Erickson, Jasmin Höning, and Alexandra Lorch) will explore how epistemic authority, power, legitimacy, and cultural meaning are constructed in increasingly data-driven environments.

In close collaboration with the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden contributed to joint activities and co-organized the artistic research conference "Performing Transformation" with internal and external partners, further strengthening the interdisciplinary profile and public engagement of the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden. Additional activities included dialogues with the artists-in-residence, e.g. Mario Pfeifer. The Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's combined scholarly work and artistic residencies continue to attract increasing international engagement, strengthening its research impact at the intersection of art, science, and technology.

These collaborations constitute an important component of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden's activities in the areas of research exchange, public engagement, and institutional development. Together, they contribute to the structured support of doctoral research and strengthen the profile of the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden in both national and international contexts.

STATUS OF DISSERTATION PROJECTS

MARIE BRIESE

DATA WORLDS SYNTHESES OF THE INCOMPATIBLE? STYLES, CONTENT, DYNAMICS AND MOTIVES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN RIGHT-WING POPULIST AND CHRISTIAN STAKEHOLDERS ON INSTAGRAM



Marie Briese
Photo: Stephan Wiegand / SLAB

Abstract

The relation between right-wing populism and Christian fundamentalism on Instagram will be defined using the key concepts of "mission and legitimation," as these are suitable for reflecting on theological backgrounds as well as social media logic. First, the terms help to describe the field of research. Both concepts are also related to power. This dynamic will be traced in a hegemony analysis. In addition, the concepts of mission and legitimation also shape references to the Bible, which will be examined in a discourse analysis. Furthermore, legitimation and mission can be seen as phenomena of digital religion, as the platform logics show structural overlaps with the mechanisms of mission and legitimation. Finally, the consequences of this implementation of legitimation and mission for the meaning of the concepts themselves and for Christianity will be presented.

ACTIVITIES 2025–MARCH 2026

- Article "Instrumentalisierung christlicher Werte durch (rechte) Christfluencer:innen", In *Loccumer Pelikan* 2/2026, pp. 32–33
- Co-Editing of the special issue "(De)Mystifying Data Beliefs: Speculative Futures for a Critical Present" together with Andrew Erickson, Jasmin Höning, and Alexandra Lorch (upcoming)
- Anthology article "Implications for Bible Use of a Deeply Mediatized Network Christianity Instrumentalized by Right-Wing Political Actors" In "Bible and Digital Culture", ed. by Frida Mannerfelt and Samuel Auler, part of the series "Routledge Studies in Religion and Digital Culture" (upcoming)
- Participation in the Second networking meeting on "Ideological Influencing" at the University of Erfurt, October 15–17, 2025 (with Jasmin Eder, University of Erfurt)
- Lecture "AI-Generated Depictions of the Afterlife and Their Role in Fundamentalist-Right Wing Populist Influencing by @liebezurbibel" at the EABS Annual Conference and SBL International Meeting 2025 in Uppsala, Sweden, June 26, 2025
- Project presentation "Religions and (Right-Wing) Populism" as part of the CiTRS Summer School, Humboldt University, Berlin, July 14–17, 2025
- Lecture "Women, Right-wing Conservatism, and Religion: Tradwives on Social Media", as part of the Working Group 7 of SFB 1472 "Transformations of the Popular", University of Siegen, November 20, 2025
- Lecture "Is that still Christian or already right-wing? Overlaps between Christianity and right-wing populism in history, election programs, and social media", Martinikirche Siegen, February 20, 2025
- Lecture "Is that still Christian or already right-wing? Visual communication strategies of right-wing Christianity in social media", POOOL Siegen, February 22, 2025
- Lecture "Fundamentalist Christian and right-wing populist radicalization on social media" at the conference of heads of school departments of German dioceses and Catholic schools under independent sponsorship, German Bishops' Conference, digital March 27, 2025
- Lecture "From 'Jesus Glow' to Christian yoga. Christian influencing on Instagram" at the trainee teachers' conference, rpi Loccum, digital, October 8, 2025
- Lecture "Intertextuality in Christfluencing. Functions of references to the Bible by fundamentalist and right-wing populist influencers on Instagram", as part of the networking meeting "Weltanschauliches Influencing", University of Erfurt, October 15–17, 2025
- Lecture "Antigenderism and Antifeminism in Right-wing Populist and Christian Fundamentalist Influencing", as part of the HerStory event series of the Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Bonn, May 7, 2025
- Invited training for religious education teachers, Diocese of Paderborn, November 4, 2025
- Invited training "Radicalization on social media. How Christian fundamentalists, the New Right, and algorithms interact", for religious education teachers, "Amen Digga. Christian influencers on social media," KPH Vienna, digital, November 19, 2025
- Lecture "Fundamentalist Christian and right-wing radicalization on social media" at the annual conference of the Responsibility Network of the German Bishops' Conference, December 6, 2025
- Invited training "Radicalization on social media. How Christian fundamentalists, the New Right, and algorithms interact", for religious education teachers of the Diocese of Augsburg, digital, December 11, 2025
- Lecture "Is that still Christian or already right-wing? How Christian fundamentalists, the New Right, and algorithms interact", Forum for Counseling and School Pastoral Care 2026, Pedagogical Institute Villigst, February 10, 2026
- Invited training "Radicalization on social media. How Christian fundamentalists, the New Right, and algorithms interact", for religious education teachers of the Diocese of Hildesheim, digital February 11, 2026
- Member of the European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS)
- Co-Chair of the EABS Research-Unit "Bible, Politisation and Digital Cultures"
- Initiation of the collaboration between the Chair of Human-Computer Interaction and the Chair of Protestant Religious Education: In the 2025/26 Winter semester, computer science students developed a website as part of a complex internship based on specifications provided by the Protestant religious education team. In the 2026 Summer semester, theology/religious education students will fill the website with content. The goal is to create an OER that can be used privately and for didactic purposes to deconstruct and reflect on discriminatory content on social media
- Educational appearance in "So radikal sind Christfluencer", YouTube video, DIE DA OBEN!, January 6, 2026
- Educational appearance in "Christfluencer: Likes für ein reaktionäres Weltbild", TV report, arte Journal, November 13, 2025



NIKLAS EGBERTS

THE SOCIO-TECHNICAL IMAGINARIES OF ARTIFICIAL GENERAL INTELLIGENCE

Niklas Egberts
Photo: Stephan Wiegand / SLAB

Abstract

This dissertation research project critically examines the socio-technical imaginaries of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). Drawing on Sheila Jasanoff's conceptualization of socio-technical imaginaries as "collectively held and performed visions of desirable futures" (2015), the project investigates how AGI is imagined as achieving human-like, superhuman, or radically non-human forms of intelligence.

Through a series of case studies, the research traces the historical lineages and contemporary manifestations of three key imaginaries: Common Sense, Superintelligence, and Planetary Intelligence. By analyzing these discourses, the project aims to elucidate the ways in which AGI functions as a site of speculative projection, shaping not only technological development but also broader socio-political and epistemological frameworks. Ultimately, this study seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of how technological imaginaries mediate the co-production of knowledge, power, and future-making in the context of artificial intelligence.

ACTIVITIES 2025–MARCH 2026

- Member of the Organizing Committee for the symposium "Unpacking Generativity: Epistemology, Politics, and Aesthetics of Generative AI Systems", October 7, 2025, together with Jasmin Höning und Nelly Saibel

- Talk "Technological Futurity and Common Sense: On a Key Metaphor of Artificial (General) Intelligence" at the conference "Critical Theory of the Computational", Weizenbaum Institut, Berlin, October 16, 2025



ANDREW ERICKSON

ALTERNATIVE WORLDS: POSTAPOCALYPTIC AFROFUTURISM AS A DATASET FOR CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Andrew Erickson
Photo: Stephan Wiegand / SLAB

Abstract

This project advances emerging discourse on world construction through data to privilege a corpus of texts that challenge dominant narratives of progress and consumption. It departs from the position that present worlds are unequally threatened by the apocalyptic violence of world loss as the result of climate change and legacies of colonization and enslavement. Looking to narratives of world-ending and world-building provides a dataset that engages a speculative literary mode to model scenarios with future-making potential. This is the work of postapocalyptic narratives and Afrofuturism, a cultural, artistic, and speculative fiction movement that explores intersections of African Diasporic cultures with futuristic technologies and science-fictional themes that often challenge dominant narratives and envision alternative, empowered futures for Black individuals and communities. Works of postapocalyptic Afrofuturism evidence the alternative worlds that come into view when diverse datasets are explored to subvert historical and ongoing processes that shape – and sometimes threaten – worlds. As such, "postapocalyptic Afrofuturism" offers the potential to expand conceptions of technology and the intersections of data, world-making, and modes of knowing and being in the world. Its epistemological intervention in this regard empowers rethinking the relationality inherent in the establishment of worlds and their knowledge systems through data. The resulting dataset offers alternatives (parallels) to prevailing Western modes of existence, enhancing our understanding of world-ending destruction across past, present, and potential future scenarios.

ACTIVITIES 2025–MARCH 2026

- Article "Unknowing Americans: The 1776 Report as Anti-Black, Anti-intellectual Erasure." In The Cultural Politics of 1776: Rethinking an American Moment, Special Issue of *Amerikastudien / American Studies*, ed. by Alexandra Hartmann and Antonia Purk, forthcoming, 2026
- Talk "Worlds With(out) Ends: Postapocalyptic Afrofuturism and the (Re-)Making of Technology, History, and the Posthuman World," Braunschweig University of Technology, February 7, 2026
- Talk "Speculating Afrofuturist History," University of Siegen, May 15, 2025
- Presentation "Speculating (Artificial) Intelligence: Human and AI Being in Conversation in SFF" at the conference "(Meta)Cognition", International Association of the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando (USA), March 17–21, 2026
- Presentation "Queering (AI) Technologies: Radical Worldmaking and Queer Futurity in *Midnight Robber"* at the conference "Trans People are (in) the Future", Science Fiction Research Association, Rochester (USA), July 30–August 3, 2025
- Presentation "Railroading History: Mobilizing Afrofuturism to Reconstruct Past and Future Worlds" at the conference "Forgotten, Misplaced, Marginalized: Speculations We Don't See", Warsaw (Poland), May 8–10, 2025
- Member of the Steering Committee, proposed DFG network, "Speculative Cultures," Braunschweig University of Technology, 2026–present
- Member of the Policies and Procedures Council, International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, 2025–2026
- Co-Editing of the Special Issue "(De)Mystifying Data Beliefs: Speculative Futures for a Critical Present" together with Marie Briese, Jasmin Höning, and Alexandra Lorch (upcoming)



JOHANNA GROSCHE

DIGITAL TWINS: INFRASTRUCTURES OF ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE AND DECISION-MAKING

Johanna Grosche
Photo: Stephan Wiegand / SLAB

Abstract

The dissertation thesis is concerned with the risks associated with climate change and the resulting need for decision-making, which increasingly seems to call for predictive solutions. In response to environmental risks and sustainability goals, the environment is progressively governed and mediated through digital data infrastructures. However, communication and media studies are only beginning to examine how such technological systems fundamentally reshape environmental decision-making beyond the analysis of media content or discourse.

Grosche's thesis addresses this gap by investigating digital twins as crucial media infrastructures that mediate environmental processes. It examines German urban digital twins as well as the European initiative Destination Earth, and explores what kinds of environmental knowledge and action become thinkable through these systems. It analyzes how municipalities frame digital twins, which environmental problems they seek to address, and how practices of data integration and simulation structure forms of decision-making. Furthermore, the study traces the socio-technical imaginaries and discourses surrounding these case studies in order to better understand the drivers behind digital twinning, their entanglement with concepts such as resilience, and the ways in which they shape environmental governance and decision-making.

ACTIVITIES 2025–MARCH 2026

- Lecture "From Ecosystem to Datasystem: The Imaginaries of Urban Nature in the Age of Digital Twins" at the conference "Transformation in Critical Times", University of Augsburg, November 6–7, 2025

- Co-Editing of the publication project "Beyond Decisions: Reimagining Decision-Making in the Age of Datafication" (working title), together with Nelly Saibel and Alexandra Lorch (including workshops with the contributors on January 28 and 30, 2026)



JASMIN HÖNING

BODIES AND AI IN ART. ARTISTIC STRATEGIES FOR DISRUPTING THE DISPOSITIF OF CONTROL

Jasmin Höning
Photo: Stephan Wiegand / SLAB

Abstract

The dissertation project examines contemporary artistic practices at the intersection of the body as both motif and subject, artificial intelligence AI and its control mechanisms. Through algorithmic functionalities, bodies and images of the body are increasingly becoming datasets, operational images, inputs and outputs of AI systems. These systems are based on normative assumptions, reproduce power relations and exert an influence on bodies and images – for example through classification, surveillance and homogenization.

Artistic practices not only reflect these mechanisms but actively negotiate them by disrupting and repurposing control structures and making them visible. Critical interventions manifest themselves in the negotiation of what can be done, shown and said, as well as in the unmasking of narratives and myths surrounding AI. The aim is to conduct a systematic analysis of artistic strategies that reconfigure the body, AI and control, and render them open to critical scrutiny.

ACTIVITIES 2025–MARCH 2026

- Conference contribution as part of the Ethics and Aesthetics of Artificial Images conference "Towards Pluralisation? Artificial Body Images and Contemporary Art Practices," Università Iuav di Venezia, May 10, 2025

- Member of the Organizing Committee for the symposium "Unpacking Generativity: Epistemology, Politics, and Aesthetics of Generative AI Systems," October 7, 2025, together with Niklas Egberts and Nelly Saibel

- Co-Editing of the Special Issue "(De)Mystifying Data Beliefs: Speculative Futures for a Critical Present" together with Marie Briese, Andrew Erickson, and Alexandra Lorch (upcoming)

ALEXANDRA LORCH

REGULATING INNOVATION IN DATA-TRAINED AI SYSTEMS



Alexandra Lorch
Photo: Stephan Wiegand / SLAB

Abstract

This thesis examines whether the European Union's regulatory framework for data and AI – including the AI Act, Data Act, GDPR, Digital Markets Act, Data Governance Act, and text and data mining provisions – effectively balances innovation promotion with risk management in data-trained AI systems. It analyses how market failures, data network effects, and entrenched data silos hinder equitable access to training data, disproportionately affecting SMEs and stifling competition. Through a legal-economic lens, the study identifies tensions between innovation-enabling openness (e.g., data sharing) and regulatory objectives like data protection and trade secrecy. It proposes two reforms: first, a binding "Innovation Principle" to broaden data access under the Data Act, addressing anti-commons problems in data markets; second, integrating global best practices – such as the UK's pro-competition data-sharing models or Asia's state-led innovation strategies – to leverage positive spill-overs. Combining doctrinal analysis, economic theory on market dynamics, and comparative assessment of governance models, the research advocates recalibrating EU regulation to mitigate data asymmetries while safeguarding privacy and safety. It also evaluates non-governmental standards as complementary tools. Findings aim to inform reforms ensuring the EU framework remains effective in a globally interconnected digital economy.

ACTIVITIES 2025–MARCH 2026

- Visiting Scholar at the Queen Mary University of London, Centre for Commercial Law Studies, February–May 2026
- Seminar "Economic Concepts of Innovation from a Legal Perspective", interdisciplinary impulse in the "Creativity and Innovation in IP Law", as part of the LL.M in Intellectual Property Law and Data Law, TUD, January 24, 2026
- Lecture units "AI Regulation and other legal frameworks of EU Digital Law", delivered within the Master's Program "Digital Humanities", TUD, Summer semester 2025
- Presentation "Legal issues of AI and data regulation and innovation", as part of the Digital Law Research Colloquium Geneva, organized by the Digital Law Center Faculty of Law, University of Geneva, Fondation Hardt, June 18, 2025
- Newly elected member of the Commission "Law of the Digital Society" at the German Women Lawyers Association (djb) (2025–2027) and of the editorial team of the LegalTech Blog
- Co-Editing of the publication project "Beyond Decisions: Reimagining Decision-Making in the Age of Datafication" (working title), together with Johanna Grosche and Nelly Saibel



NELLY SAIBEL

NORMATIVITY IN THE AGE OF THE BLOCKCHAIN

Nelly Saibel
Photo: Stephan Wiegand / SLAB

Abstract

The project engages with political theory and discourses on blockchain technologies in order to write a critique and political theory of blockchain technologies. It is argued that political concepts and categories fundamental for political thought are being reformulated at the intersection of discourses on blockchain, the Alt-Right, Silicon Valley actors and neoliberal rationalities since the 1980s. In this context, anti-democratic, illiberal imaginaries of socio-technical world-making emerge. This project is built on discourse analysis and socio-philosophical critique, examining a genealogy of the blockchain. In addition to this, the project is intended as a methodological contribution to political theory and histories of ideas, expanding on histories of technology. Accordingly, the aim is to create a transdisciplinary methodology that combines research on political theory, history of technology, social-philosophy, media theory, and political economy.

ACTIVITIES 2025–MARCH 2026

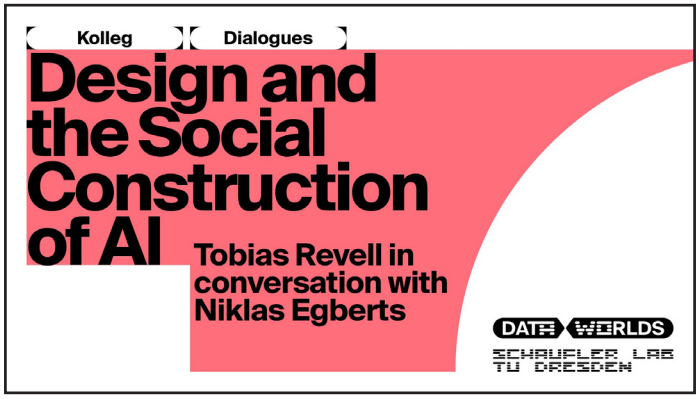
- Co-Editing of the publication project "Beyond Decisions: Reimagining Decision-Making in the Age of Datafication" (working title), together with Johanna Grosche and Alexandra Lorch
- Paper for AI and Society (Open Forum), together with Jasmin Höning, following the symposium "Unpacking Generativity, Epistemology, Politics and Aesthetics of Generative AI Systems" (in preparation)
- Paper outline "Against Democracy: Political Imaginaries of the Blockchain" (working title), submitted for a contribution for the annual international conference on Philosophy of Technology 2027 with the focus on: Democratic Technology? Technological Democracy?
- Member of the Organizing Committee for the symposium "Unpacking Generativity: Epistemology, Politics, and Aesthetics of Generative AI Systems", October 7, 2025, together with Jasmin Höning und Niklas Egberts

DIALOGUE-VIDEOCAST SERIES

In the Spring 2025 term, Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden developed an innovative videocast format that engages with the project's focus on **Data↔Worlds**, contributing to the expansion of its research impact and public engagement. In these discussions, doctoral researchers engage with leading experts in their fields to explore the intersections of art, research, and digital society. The format opens up diverse perspectives on how data is approached today – critically, creatively, and interdisciplinarily. Each session is moderated by a designated fellow and produced and edited by the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden team. Following the recordings, PhD students have the opportunity to engage in a Q&A session with the guest speakers. The resulting recordings, typically up to one hour in length, are published as the *Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden Dialogues-Videocast Series* via the TUD Kustodie Office for Academic Heritage YouTube channel.

TOBIAS REVELL IN CONVERSATION WITH NIKLAS EGBERTS: DESIGN AND THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF AI (MAY 2025)

Dr. Tobias Revell, a London-based designer, artist, and researcher, shared insights from his PhD research on the role of design in the construction of AI. His work addresses themes such as the construction of technological futures, the invention of use, the spectacle of progress, and technological normativity. Underlying these explorations is a constructivist approach that does not disregard the materiality of technology, but instead situates AI within the socio-cultural practices, scenes, and events in which it is constituted as a discursive object. In discussion with Niklas Egberts, he further reflected on the conceptual history of enchantment and disenchantment in relation to technology and its implications for contemporary debates on data worlds.



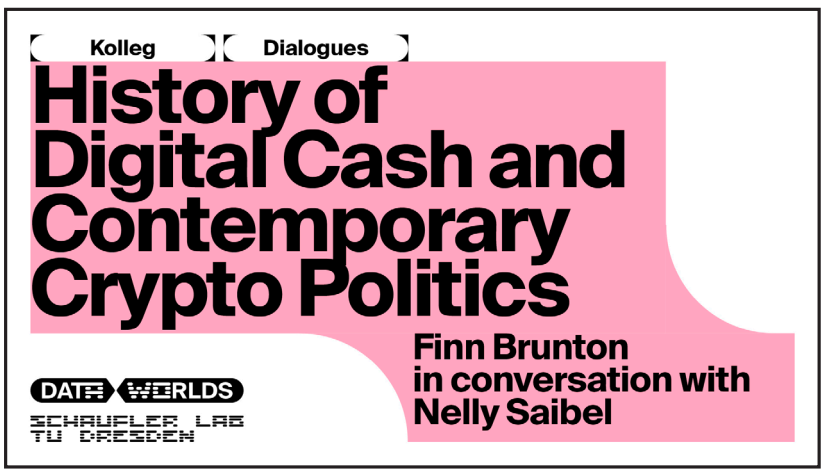
Videocast Tobias Revell and Niklas Egberts
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AN INTERVIEW WITH TED CHIANG BY ANDREW ERICKSON: ARTISTIC CONTEXT, GENAI, AND THE DILUTION OF INTENTION: (JUNE 2025)

Ted Chiang, an award-winning science fiction writer and one of *Time Magazine's* "The 100 Most Influential People in AI" 2023, reflected on authorship and the human dimension of artistic decision-making in the age of generative AI. The session, conducted in conversation with Andrew Erickson, was not recorded on video at the speaker's request; a written version is available instead on the Schaufler Lab@ TU Dresden website. The dialogue opened with a brief presentation by Chiang, drawing on his recent critical work on generative AI and further developing a discussion at the intersection of technological innovation, art, and the humanities, as well as the future imaginaries shaping contemporary political and material realities.

FINN BRUNTON IN CONVERSATION WITH NELLY SAIBEL: HISTORY OF DIGITAL CASH AND CONTEMPORARY CRYPTO POLITICS (OCTOBER 2025)

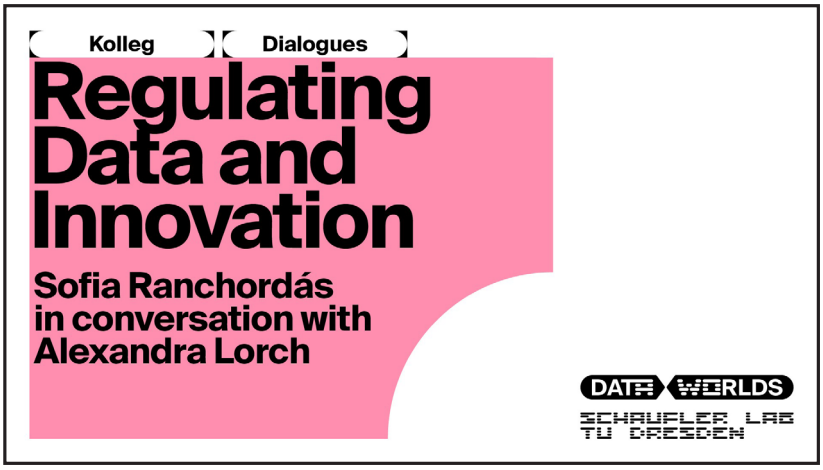
Dr. Finn Brunton, Professor of Science and Technology Studies at UC Davis, discussed the libertarian roots of digital cash and their manifestations in contemporary political contexts. He traced the history of digital money through the Cypherpunk movement and the Extropians, both of which sought to develop technologies aligned with specific ideological visions of the future. In conversation with Nelly Saibel, Brunton further explored the persistence of these ideas, addressing religious elements in discourses on digital technologies, tensions within libertarian thought, and questions of masculinity in data worlds.



Videocast Finn Brunton and Nelly Saibel
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SOFIA RANCHORDÁS IN CONVERSATION WITH ALEXANDRA LORCH (OCTOBER 2025)

Dr. Sofia Ranchordás (Tilburg Law School / LUISS Guido Carli, Rome) is a leading scholar at the intersection of law, technology, and social justice. She examines how legal frameworks shape innovation in digital, data-intensive contexts. Her work on data colonialism demonstrates how global data flows mirror historical power imbalances, particularly affecting the Global South. She advocates for more equitable legal systems, including experimental governance models such as regulatory sandboxes and living labs, grounded in inclusion and democratic accountability. In conversation with Alexandra Lorch, she further examined how automated governance can produce regulatory injustice and reproduce inequalities along lines of race, gender, and socio-economic status.



Videocast Sofia Ranchordás and Alexandra Lorch
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SHANNON MATTERN IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHANNA GROSCHE: ARCHIVES, INFRASTRUCTURES & THE HUMANITIES (JANUARY 2026)

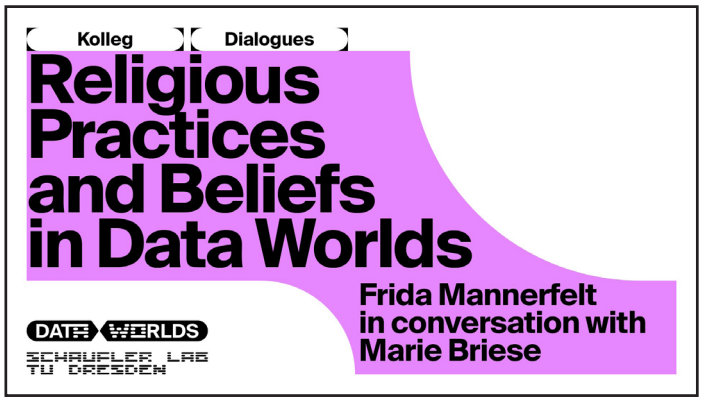
Dr. Shannon Mattern, Director of Creative Research at the Metropolitan New York Library Council, reflected on her more than 23-year career in academia and her recent transition beyond it. Beginning with an intellectual autobiography, she discussed how her research on data and worlds has been shaped by evolving interests, institutional conditions, and broader political and societal transformations. In conversation with Johanna Grosche, Mattern further addressed questions of data management and preservation in times of planetary and political change, as well as the challenges and opportunities of cross-disciplinary research and alternative career paths for PhDs.



Videocast Shannon Mattern and Johanna Grosche
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FRIDA MANNERFELT IN CONVERSATION WITH MARIE BRIESE: RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AND BELIEFS IN DATA WORLDS (FEBRUARY 2026)

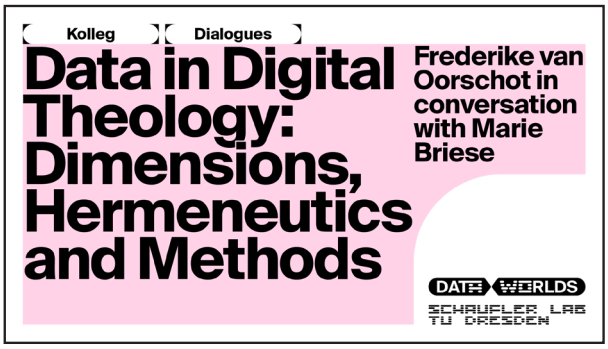
Dr. Frida Mannerfelt, Associate Professor in Practical Theology at the Centre for Theology and Religious Studies at Lund University, discussed current developments in the field of digital theology and digital religion. Drawing on her work in the Scripture & Secularism project and a study on the use of AI in the Church of Sweden, she highlighted the interconnections between mediatization, digitalization, and religious practice. In conversation with Marie Briese, Mannerfelt emphasized how historical perspectives from both church history and the history of technology can deepen our understanding of contemporary transformations in data worlds.



Videocast Frida Mannerfelt and Marie Briese
© SLAB

FREDERIKE VAN OORSCHOT IN CONVERSATION WITH MARIE BRIESE: DATA IN DIGITAL THEOLOGY (JANUARY 2026)

PD Dr. Frederike van Oorschot, a Protestant theologian and head of the department "Religion, Recht und Kultur" at the Forschungsstätte der Evangelischen Studiengemeinschaft e.V. (FEST) in Heidelberg, provided insights into the field of digital theology. Her work explores how theology can contribute to understanding a digitalized and data-driven world, particularly in light of transformations brought about by AI, data, and digital communication. In conversation with Marie Briese, she discussed how digitalization reshapes religious practices and communication, as well as the methodological potentials of computational theology and the importance of hermeneutical approaches for interdisciplinary research on data and the digital.



Videocast Frederike van Oorschot and Marie Briese
© SLAB

ERYK SALVAGGIO IN CONVERSATION WITH JASMIN HÖNING: NAVIGATING NOISE (FEBRUARY 2026)

The researcher and artist Eryk Salvaggio introduced his concept of the "Age of Noise" to critically examine generative AI systems as filters, producers, and amplifiers of noise. The conversation focused on dominant narratives surrounding AI, including notions of control, creativity, and productivity, as well as their broader social and political implications. In discussion with Jasmin Höning, Salvaggio also reflected on the role of artistic practice in engaging with AI – whether through critical use, rejection, or deliberate misappropriation to expose underlying power structures and epistemic boundaries.



Videocast Eryk Salvaggio and Jasmin Höning
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EVENTS WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

APRIL 7–11, 2025 WRITING RETREAT, WINDMÜHLE SEIFHENNERSDORF

At the beginning of April, just in time for the start of the 2025 Summer term, the Schaufler Kolleg@ TU Dresden embarked on a five-day writing retreat at the Saxon Education and Meeting Center Windmühle Seifhennersdorf. The group was accompanied by writing coach Dr. Beate Richter from the Wissenschaftliche Schreibwerkstatt Berlin. She structured and guided the daily writing process while advising the participants in the form of individual consultations. The main focus was perception, reflection, and the reduction of writing obstacles, as well as the further development of writing strategies based on previously selected text projects.

Writing Retreat 2025
Photo: SLAB



APRIL 29–30, 2025 WORKSHOP "DEALING WITH RIGHT-WING TALKING POINTS IN ACADEMIC SETTINGS"

On April 29 and 30, 2025, the workshop "Dealing with Right-Wing Talking Points in Academic Settings" took place as a hands-on training session organized for the Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden. The goal of the event, led by the consulting and training group Gegenargument (based in Berlin), was to strengthen participants in handling right-wing provocations and disruptions, particularly in the context of higher education and science communication. The participants, who already had a solid theoretical foundation in topics such as democratic theory, intersectionality, diversity, and the connection between right-wing populism and Christian fundamentalism, wanted to expand their practical skills in dealing with challenging confrontations. The training addressed key questions such as: Which argumentation strategies are effective when faced with targeted provocations? When does the instructor take responsibility, and when is it handed over to the group? What boundaries need to be set during discussions, and how should disruptions be managed? The two-day event was rated as highly beneficial by the participants. It not only promoted empowerment but also provided practical strategies to respond confidently and effectively to provocations and disruptions.

JUNE 2–6, 2025
GHOST MINES – SENSING PASTS/ CASTING FUTURES

The research studio "Ghost Mines – Sensing Pasts / Casting Futures" took place at TUD from 2 to 6 June 2025. It explored the ecological, social, and cultural legacies of former mining regions in the Ore Mountains and Lusatia, focusing on how interdisciplinary approaches can help reimagine these landscapes for more sustainable futures. The program combined lectures, workshops, field excursions, and hands-on methods such as digital sensing technologies, environmental mapping, and artistic data practices, culminating in a collaborative online publication. The event was organized by the Chair of Digital Cultures at TUD, by Michaela Büsse, Kristiane Fehrs, Özgün Eylül İşcen, and Orit Halpern.



Poster "GHOST MINES"
© TUD

NOVEMBER 5, 2025
DISSERTATION WORKSHOP

In early November 2025, following the start of the academic year, the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden convened for its Dissertation Workshop, with the participation of the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden's supervisors Simon Meier-Vieracker, Birte Platow, Orit Halpern, Moritz Ingwersen, Lutz Hagen, Carsten Junker, Kerstin Schankweiler, and Katharina Kaesling. Fellows shared chapters in progress and received structured feedback from peers and supervisors, with drafts circulated in advance to enable in-depth discussion. Each project was allocated one hour, allowing for focused analysis, constructive exchange, and detailed commentary.

The workshop not only supported the refinement of individual dissertation projects but also fostered familiarity with each other's work and facilitated collective planning for upcoming research and writing phases. It thus contributed to maintaining steady progress and strengthening the collaborative research environment at the Schaufler Kolleg@TU Dresden.

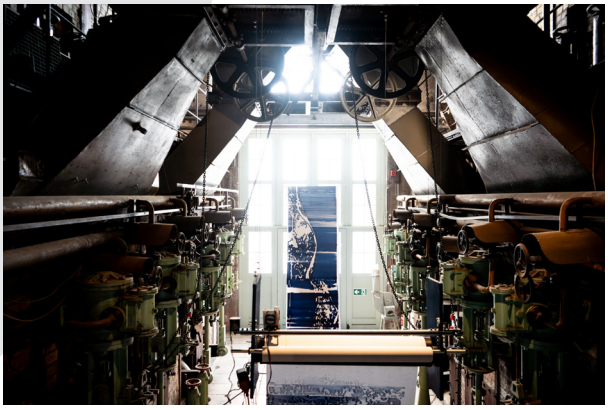


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Photos: SLAB / Stephan Wiegand









SCHAUFLER RESIDENCY@TU DRESDEN 2025



Kick-Off: Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2025
Photo: Amac Garbe



ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE 2025: MARIO PFEIFER

The internationally renowned artist and filmmaker Mario Pfeifer was selected for the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2025. Chosen from 77 applications submitted by artists from 38 countries, Pfeifer conducted artistic research at Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden between April and September 2025 within the thematic framework of the second funding phase, **Data↔Worlds. Socio-technical and Cultural Syntheses of New Realities.**

With the project "Beyond the Binaries," developed in collaboration with Prof. Michael Färber (Chair of Scalable Software Architectures for Data Analytics) and other researchers at TUD, Pfeifer explored the relationship between humans, artificial intelligence, and data-driven realities. The residency focused on the conception of an AI-driven, dynamic video installation investigating how data generate realities of their own while simultaneously shaping perception, social narratives, and processes of decision-making.

The residency was publicly inaugurated on May 27, 2025, with the artist talk "if you end up with the story you started with, then you're not listening along the way" at the COSMO Science Forum in Dresden's Kulturpalast. The event attracted considerable public interest and provided insight into Pfeifer's artistic methodology and his collaborative exchange with researchers at TUD.

An additional component of the residency was the survey "Beyond the Binaries," published in June 2025 and addressed to students and staff of TUD as well as to a broader public audience. More than 260 participants responded to 18 questions concerning human-machine relations, algorithmic environments, and individual perceptions of reality. The collected responses were intended, among other things, to serve as training data for the planned AI-based installation.

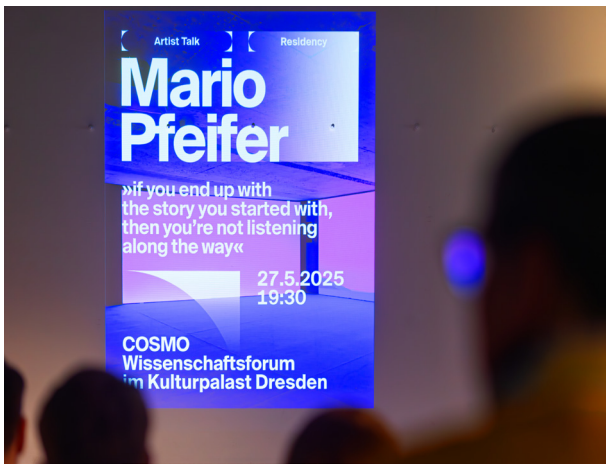
The originally planned final presentation of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2025 could not be realized, as the ambitious development goals of the project ultimately proved technically and artistically unfeasible.







Kick-Off: Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2025
Photo: Amac Garbe



Kick-Off: Residency 2025
Photo: Amac Garbe



Survey "Beyond the Binaries"
© SLAB

OPEN CALL 2026

In August 2025, the open call for the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2026 was published. With 151 applications from 53 different countries, the growing international visibility of the Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden was further expanded, and the number of submissions was also increased.

The selection session of the selection committee, consisting of Dr. Svenja Frank (Director of SCHAUWERK Sindelfingen), Prof. Oliver Kossack (Rector of the Dresden Academy of Fine Arts), Prof. Manuel Frey (Director of the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony), Kirsten Vincenz (Director of Kustodie / Spokesperson Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden), and Gwendolin Kremer (Curator of Kustodie and Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden), took place in December 2025. The artist duo Quadrature (Juliane Götz and Sebastian Neitsch) was unanimously nominated. In January 2026, the nomination was announced via press release.

Open Call Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2026
© SLAB



Open Call

Residency

Apply now for Schaufler Residency @TU Dresden 2026

Deadline: November 2, 2025

The call is addressed to artists or artist groups from the fields of media or conceptual art, performance, etc., with profound experience in collaborative practice.

The Schaufler Residency@TU Dresden 2026 includes:

- Access to a high-quality array of institutes and workshops for collaborative research
- A stipend of € 3,000 (net) a month for 6 months
- A studio at TUD
- Production support up to € 10,000
- Solo exhibition in fall 2026 with an artist book by a respected fine arts publishing house (Sandstein Verlag, Dresden)
- Assistance finding accommodation

SCHAUFLER LAB TU DRESDEN

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT DRESDEN

THE SCHAUFLER FOUNDATION

SCHAUFLER RESIDENCY@TU DRESDEN 2026: QUADRATURE



Portrait of the artist duo
© Quadrature



Quadrature: Orbits
© Ars Electronica, Martin Hieslmair, 2016



Quadrature: Scope
Artwork produced with funds of Le Pavillon Namur, Stiftung Kunstfonds, and others
© Beijing Art and Technology Biennale, 2025



Quadrature: Supraspectives
Exhibition Cosmopolitics, curated by Polynome Collective, at Kunstbrücke am Wildenbruch, Berlin
© Nihad Nino Pušija, 2025

Quadrature – Juliane Götz (*1984, Erding) and Sebastian Neitsch (*1982, Hamburg), both living and working in Heidesee – have collaborated as an artistic duo since 2015. Their works, often developed in close cooperation with scientific institutions, have been presented internationally in museums, exhibitions, and transdisciplinary contexts. The duo has received numerous awards and fellowships, including the Prix Ars Electronica (2015, 2018), grants from the Stiftung Kunstfonds, Akademie Schloss Solitude, and La Becque, as well as a fellowship from Podium Esslingen and the Hertz-Lab at ZKM Karlsruhe.

Between February and July 2026, Quadrature conducted a six-month residency at Schaufler Lab@TU Dresden within the framework of the second funding phase, **Data↔Worlds. Socio-technical and Cultural Syntheses of New Realities**. As part of the residency, Quadrature will develop the project "The Mass of Money," a large-scale immersive audiovisual installation examining the relationship between economic systems, inequality, and the cultural imagination of scale and order. Drawing on economic data and cosmological models, the project will translate abstract financial and social processes into visual and acoustic environments. Preparations are currently underway. Planned activities include a public kick-off event, a workshop bringing together research partners and invited external guests, as well as the integration of the residency into teaching at TUD through seminars, lectures, and interdisciplinary exchange. The residency will conclude with a public exhibition presenting the artistic outcomes.

Juliane Götz and Sebastian Neitsch met many years ago at Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle. Neitsch already focused on his media art practice during his studies. For Götz a scholarship at the Akademie Schloss Solitude served as turning point. Currently she is a PhD candidate at the Critical Data Research Group, Kunstuni Linz.

Since 2015 they have been collaborating as Quadrature. Their joint artistic research understands technology as a means to read and write realities, with data as their primary artistic material. They use transdisciplinary media to create artworks that not only capture the intersection between art and science, but also the convergence of digital and analog.

Quadrature: Satelliten
In collaboration with Jan Bernstein
© Quadrature, 2015



Quadrature: Voice of Commons at Venice Biennale of Architecture 2025
Carlo Scarpa former Ticket Office, Giardini of La Biennale, May 7, 2025
© UNA/UNLESS © Marco Valmarana, 2025







Quadrature: Credo
In collaboration with Christian Losert and Sebastian Müllauer. Developed within the framework of the #bebeethoven scholarship programme, a project of the PODIUM Esslingen on the occasion of the Beethoven Jubilee 2020, funded by the Federal Cultural Foundation. In co-production with ZKM | Hertz-Lab
© Quadrature, 2020



Quadrature: Scope
Artwork produced with funds of Le Pavillon Namur, Stiftung Kunstfonds, and others
© Quadrature, 2025



Quadrature: Supraspectives
The production was developed in Medialab Tabakalera, in collaboration with Ars Electronica and with astrophysicists Silvia Bonoli and Raul Angulo from the Donostia International Physics Center – DIPC
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IMPRINT

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A joint project of TUD and THE SCHAUFLER FOUNDATION

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Dresden, 08/2026

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